

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 06396 221251Z

43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W  
----- 006782

O 221146Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9689  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 6396

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE  
SUBJECT: KHADDAM COMMENTS ON LEBANON

1. SUMMARY: ACCORDING KHADDAM, TAIF QUADRIPARTITE MEETING  
POSTPONED SINE DIE AFTER LAST MINUTE EGYPTIAN REQUEST  
FOR ADDITION OF SARKIS AND PALESTINIANS. SYRIA WORKING TO  
INSURE SEPT 23 INAUGURATION OF SARKIS. EGYPT CONTINUES  
HELP JUMBLATT AND LEFTISTS. FOUR THOUSAND IRAQI FIGHTERS NOW  
IN LEBANON. CHTAURA CONFERENCE DEADLOCKED WHEN ARAFAT  
UNABLE DELIVER PLO. END SUMMARY

2. IN SEPT 22 MEETING I ASKED FORMIN KHADDAO WHAT BEARING

HE FELT DETERIORATION OF THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY  
SITUATION IN BEIRUT OVER THE PAST 24 HOURS WOULD HAVE  
ON THE PROPOSED SYRO-EGYPTIAN MEETINGS IN TAIF AS  
WELL AS ON THE INAUGURATION OF SARKIS.

3. FONMIN REPLIED THAT HE WAS PESSIMISTIC OVER LATEST  
DEVELOPMENTS. THE TAIF MEETING HAD BEEN POSTPONED SINE DIE.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 DAMASC 06396 221251Z

BUT, HE CLARIFIED, ITS POSTPONEMENT HAD BEEN CAUSED BY A LAST

MINUTE CONDITION SET BY CAIRO RATHER THAN BY BEIRUT FIGHTING. MEETING HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR SEPT 22 AND WAS TO BE RESTRICTED TO EGYPT, SYRIA, SAUDIA ARABIA AND KUWAIT. LAST NIGHT DAMASCUS HAD BEEN SURPRISED BY NEWS THAT CAIRO HAD ASKED THAT PARTICIPATION BE BROADENED TO INCLUDE SARKIS AND "THE PALESTINIANS." HE PERSONALLY ATTRIBUTED THE RENEWED INTENSITY OF FIGHTING IN LEBANON TO THE DECISION BY "JUMBLATT AND HIS ALLIES" TO ESCALATE THE FIGHTING AFTER THEY FIRST HEARD OF THE PROPOSED TAIF MEETING, IN AN EFFORT TO FRUSTRATE ANY SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF THAT CONFERENCE.

4. SARKIS INSTALLATION: SYRIA WAS DEPLOYING ALL ITS EFFORTS TO INSURE THAT SARKIS' INAUGURATION OCCURS ON SCHEDULE TOMORROW--SEPT 23. HE NOTED THAT CHAMOUN HAD STATED YESTERDAY IT WOULD BE UNCONSTITUTIONAL FOR THE CEREMONY TO OCCUR OUTSIDE OF BEIRUT. SYRIA HAS, HOWEVER, SENT A MESSENGER TO CHAMOUN TO (#)

KHADDAM, WAS CONFIDENT THAT CHAMOUN WOULD AGREE.

5. DISCUSSING THE RECENT PROCESSION OF LEBANESE POLITICAL PERSONALITIES TO CAIRO, KHADDAM REITERATED THAT DAMASCUS HAD ACTIVELY ENCOURAGED ALL THESE VISITS. THE LEBANESE HAD TOLD SYRIANS THAT THEIR PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES WERE TO IMPROVE SYRO-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS AND TO EXPLAIN THE DANGERS INHERENT IN CONTINUATION OF RECENT EGYPTIAN POLICY IN THE LEBANON. IT HAD BEEN THE LEBANESE WHO ORIGINALLY PROPOSED THE QUADRIPARTITE MEETING IN TAIF. "UNFORTUNATELY, IT NOW APPEARS THAT EGYPT WANTS TO CONTINUE ITS GAME IN LEBANON." SYRIA COULD NOT UNDERSTAND EGYPTIAN MOTIVATIONS BEHIND ITS SUPPORT FOR JUMBLATT AND HIS PARTISANS. EGYPT WAS GIVING DIRECT ASSISTANCE THROUGH SUCH MEASURES AS PERMITTING IRAQI FIGHTERS TO TRANSIT CAIRO FROM BAGHDAD TO LEBANON. KHADDAM ESTIMATED THAT UP TO 4,000 IRAQIS ARE NOW IN LEBANON; 400 OF THESE HAD ARRIVED IN ONE SHIP AT SIDON PORT FROM EGYPT DURING THE PAST TWO WEEKS.

6. CHTAURA CONFERENCE: KHADDAM SAID THA THE SEPT 17  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03     DAMASC 06396 221251Z

SESSION AT CHTAURA BETWEEN SARKIS, ARAFAT AND JAMIL HAD BEEN ENCOURAGING BUT SYRIAN HOPES FOR CONTINUED PROGRESS WERE DASHED IN THE SUBSEQUENT SEPT 19 MEETING. ON SEPT 17 ARAFAT HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS BY SARKIS BUT STATED HE MUST REFER THEM TO HIS FELLOW PALESTINIAN LEADERS. THE SARKIS SUGGESTIONS HAD INCLUDED MAKING TANGIBLE MOVEMENT TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CAIRO ACCORDS WITHIN TWO WEEKS. ON SEPT 19 ARAFAT RETURNED TO SAY HE WAS NOT AUTHORIZED TO

ACCEPT SARKIS' SUGGESTIONS.

7. ARAFAT, ACCORDING TO KHADDAM, IN TURN ASKED FOR A CEASE-FIRE TO BE FOLLOWED BY CREATION OF A COMMISSION TO EXAMINE ALL OTHER PROBLEMS. SARKIS HAD INSISTED ON AGREEMENT ON A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION OF WHICH THE CEASE-FIRE WOULD FORM A PART. AS FAR AS SYRIA WAS CONCERNED, ARAFAT'S PROPOSAL WAS AN EFFORT TO "DILUTE THE WHOLE ISSUE" AND TO PLAY FOR TIME.

8. KHADDAM WOULD NOT BE DRAWN OUT ON WHATEVER PLANS SYRIANS MAY HAVE FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS SHOULD THE PRESENT POLITICAL STALEMATE CONTINUE.  
MURPHY

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY'S PARTY.  
DAMASCUS 6396 (#)OMISSION IN PARA 4. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PFOR, CIVIL DISORDERS, POLITICAL SITUATION, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ellisoob  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976DAMASC06396  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** RR  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760357-1000  
**From:** DAMASCUS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760934/aaaabckf.tel  
**Line Count:** 134  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ellisoob  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2004 by ellisoob>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** KHADDAM COMMENTS ON LEBANON  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SY, LE  
**To:** SECSTATE WASHDC AMMAN BEIRUT CAIRO JIDDA KUWAIT  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006